

What the people running for President should be talking about, for example, is health care. Thousands and thousands of new people each month are saying, "I have no health insurance." Businesses more and more each day are saying, "We do not supply our employees health insurance." Health care costs are still skyrocketing. Health care costs this year alone will go up \$1 billion. We need to have candidates talking about health care reform.

Minimum wage. We need to talk about raising the minimum wage. It is not a bunch of people, the stereotypical teenagers flipping hamburgers at McDonald's. The fact is that 60 percent of the people who receive the minimum wage are women. For 40 percent of those people, that is the only money they get for them and their family. The minimum wage needs to be increased. If it was good when we adopted it in the Depression years, it is good today and we should do what we can as a Congress to make sure it maintains its rate in keeping with inflation.

The environment. I have not heard a single candidate on the Republican ticket running for President talk about the environment. They are in that beautiful area of New Hampshire. I have never been to New Hampshire but the pictures are beautiful. I would love to go there and see that State. On television, you think of the pristine environment. We need to be talking about the environment. The only thing we have seen especially from the other body this past year is to roll back the environmental laws—22 riders on 1 appropriations bill to roll back environmental regulations. People in that body want to wipe out the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, wipe out the endangered species law. They should be talking in a positive sense about what we can do to improve the environment.

I repeat. What I have talked about has been good. It does not mean it is good enough, but it means it is good. Let us give our constituents, let us give the people of America the positive spin. We are doing fine. Let us have these candidates talk about senior citizens and Medicare and not hear the nonsense that we are not cutting Medicare; we are only cutting the rate of increase, without leveling with the American people and saying, of course, we have to maintain an increase in funding for Medicare because thousands of new people are coming on the rolls every day. Medical costs are rising out of the roof. Of course, we have to increase spending for Medicare. It does not mean we do not need to do some work to make it a better system, but we need not decimate it. We do not need to have it wither on the vine as the leader in the other body says that it should.

Education, let us talk about education in a positive sense instead of what we are seeing happen this past year. We are seeing programs that I believe are good programs like School-to-

Work—only 25 percent of the kids who graduate from high school graduate from college. What do we do about the other 75 percent? We have one way of helping. That is our School-To-Work Program which is a fine program that deals with that 75 percent and involves local businesses. In the State of Nevada, we have a wonderful School-to-Work Program. But what are they doing in the other body? They want to wipe it out, and in fact that is what we have. It has been wiped out.

What about our Goals 2000? In Nevada, we have set our Goals 2000. They are led by the First Lady of Nevada, Sandy Miller. About a month ago in Nevada they published their goals for the year 2000, good goals dealing with literacy, math education, reading, but it is being wiped out by this Congress. That is unfortunate. It is unfair to kids.

Crime. Crime is staggeringly bad in this country, but let us talk even there about the fact that the crime rate is declining with the number of murders reported dropping by 12 percent, robberies down 10 percent, car theft down 5 percent. As a result of the Brady bill, more than 45,000 fugitives and felons have been blocked from buying handguns. We have more cops on the street, about 30,000 across the country, over 150 in the State of Nevada. It has helped. Now, where we are failing—I have no problem discussing this—is with juvenile crime. It is becoming more violent, more vicious, and more random. We need to do something about that. But let us even talk on a positive note there about the President's State of the Union message where he said he was going to ask the head of the FBI to focus on juvenile crime, on gangs. That is important.

There is where the discussions should come. Let us talk positively. Let us talk about how well we are doing and how much better we can do.

Mr. President, there was an article recently by Daniel Gross that I assume ran in a number of different newspapers around the country. One of the things he said, and I quote, was:

The wealthy would be well served to also recall that the three most dramatic investment events of this century—the panic of 1907 and the crashes of 1929 and 1987—all took place in the watch of Republican Chief Executives.

The two worst Presidencies for stocks were those of Republicans Herbert Hoover, under whom the Dow fell an appalling 75 percent, and Richard Nixon. Between November 1968 and August 1974 the market fell 18 percent. Factor in the high inflation of the early 1970s, and the loss becomes a 6.9 percent annual rout.

Mr. President, I close by saying I think it is extremely important that the primaries, as they develop, be ones that the candidates focus more on the positive, talk about what is good that is happening in the country; and then on a positive note talk about how much better we can be, rather than the continual harangue we hear about how bad things are and how, in effect, the

future looks bleak. I do not believe that. I think we are as good as our past. And our past has been good.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Thursday, February 22, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,959,914,205.44, about \$13 billion shy of the \$5 trillion mark, which the Federal debt will exceed in a few months.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,932.73 as his or her share of that debt.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore of the House (Mrs. MORELLA), was signed on today, February 23, 1996, by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND):

H.R. 1718. An act to designate the United States Courthouse located at 197 South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as the "Max Rosen United States Courthouse."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1571. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain lands within the State of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 1572. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide funds and incentives for closures of rail-highway crossings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1573. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish and provide a checkoff for a Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1571. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain lands within the